

2-18-96
Xty greatest contribution
to mankind - the
sanctity of human life.

Intro: Jesus' estimate of the
value of man a radical
& revolutionary idea.

- The current conception.

Lex as stated in Plato's Republic
all made in bonds of earth.
some mixed with gold
rest " " silver
" " " iron.

Concept
of Society

x Practised by all alike.

- Jesus conception.

Every individual human being
created in the image of God

Every man ~~that~~ gold in him

Every child of practice with ~~to~~

Lk. 15: 10 "There is joy in the presence
of the angels of God over one
sinner that repenteth."

Mk. 10: 14 Suffer the little children

Mt. 16: 26 What shall it profit a
man if he gain the whole world
& lose his own life.

x on clarity the measure
of God's estimate of thy worth
& ~~even~~ individual.

Not one human being
however degraded to be
cast out as rubbish.
Every human creature
made of gold, of the highest
value.

Out of this X-conception
of human nature there arose
the idea of the sanctity of
human life.

It was the influence
of this idea that put a
stop to the Roman gladiatorial
shows... - that put new
meaning to the old command
"Thou shalt not kill."
and gave, for the first time,
a universal application.

This idea was never unanimously
held, nor did it ever dominate.
Even the Church discarded it.
persecutions & bloodshed
Peter the Hermit - crusade
Pope Innocent III. forming
slaughters of Albigensian
peasantry

Forquema, revolting in
slaughters of Spanish dispossessed

3 In spite of this disregard
of the H's conception of the
sanctity of human life, the
idea has gradually gained
ground.

1. This idea ended slavery.

Channing in his discourses
on Slavery "Every human
being has within him
the idea of God, and to
unfold this is the end of
his existence. Every
human being has the idea
of truth & is capable of
ever-enlarging perceptions of
truth. Every human being
has affections which may
be purified & expanded into a
sublime love."

These are the capacities
that distinguish us from mere
animals.

To be deprived of them
is the worst form of death
Mt. 10:28 And be not afraid
of them that kill the body,

x but are not able to kill
the soul: but rather fear
him who is able to
destroy both soul and
body. "

The horror of slavery was
not so much the physical
sufferings of the slaves - for some
were well cared for - but the
killing of their souls, the
depriving them of their
god-given manhood - their
right to express themselves
as ~~the~~ truth & ~~the~~ love,
of ~~God~~.

The ~~ownership~~ ownership
of one man by another
is the lowest form of degradation,
for it deprives the one owned
of the opportunity of living
his own life, of developing
his own powers, of realizing
his hopes & faith of his
own soul.

And to think, that the
Church, sanctioned it!
Interfering with God's plan
of salvation.

3) # Our treatment of prisoners in the light of this idea of the sanctity of human life.

Prisoners cannot talk, write, letters, go out in the open air, make friendships. Every privilege of personal conversation & habit is denied him.

He is made a mere number & automaton.

Everything good within the prisoner - the very thing that makes him a man - a child of God - dies in prison.

III. The great industrial system in the light of this idea. -

The factory & wage system has changed the craftsman who once took pride in his own handiwork into but a part of a great machine day in & day out the same.

By the thousands they work thus & live in crowded & unhealthy quarters eating out a mere physical existence

6 Child labor! Depriving
the growing boys & girls of
their opportunity to develop
the good & great ideas within
them.

Is not this slavery
only in a different form?

II. War in the light of this
idea of the sacredness of
human life.

1. The extreme horror of
war, not ~~in~~ the physical
sufferings of the people
involved.

It is the few men
in power who, for their
selfish purposes, compel
millions of their subjects
to take up arms without
their consent to fight.
& using the common people
as pawns, with which
to play their games of
greed.

> Conscriptum in Germany,
France, Austria, Prussia.

Forster's shock at the
opinion of officers in
Belgium that nationality
necessitates war.

Is not one a perverted
view that regards
the institution as of more
importance than its
members, a nation
of more importance than
its citizens?

Time will come when
future generations will
look back upon us with
incredulous surprise even
as we look upon those
Ministers who preached
on behalf of slavery 60 yrs
ago.